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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY *INTERNATIONAL*SUBJECT **WFTU Gaining In In Importance For the Communists**
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1. The World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) is increasing in importance for the Communists. This organization is regarded as one of the great successes of the last period, partly replacing and superseding the Cominform machinery. The Cominform office in Bucharest and its publications are regarded by Communist high officials as a limited propaganda affair, with no possibility of further expansion. The WFTU on the other hand, boasts of having control over approximately 88 million organized workers from 79 countries, which means an increase of 17 millions over the last two years. This increase is due mainly to the affiliation of new unions in Asia, Africa, and Latin America (160 delegates from 8 Latin American countries, in comparison to 21 delegates at the last Congress, according to the report of Lombardo Toledano).
2. The General Secretary of the Indonesian Confederation of Labor (SOBSI), Ruslan Vidjaja Zastra, is one of the new key figures in Asian trade unionism under Communist auspices. In Asia the WFTU is winning over the majority of organized labor in spite of attempts by the AFL to organize anti-Communist unions, because of the great influence of the Indian and Japanese trade unions in Asia. For the first time a certain amount of success has been reported in organizing the Arab workers of the Near East into trade unions; this area, until now, has been more or less closed to mass infiltration by the Communists.

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3. From among the African countries, the Gold Coast Trades Union Congress, just disaffiliated from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, sent a delegation to the Vienna Congress of the WFTU. The British Trade Unions sent only a relatively small group of unofficial observers to the Congress, but it would be a mistake to underestimate the influence which the Vienna meeting may exert in the big British trade unions through this small group.

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